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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 33 | Min 22 | Humidity 70% Partly cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain Sensex 75,867 | Nifty 23,907 | Gold 1,56,060 | Silver 2,75,000 | Dollar 95.69 | Euro 111.26 | GBP 128.80

Train spotting

CITY PAGE 4

To cut passenger waiting times and ensure high-frequency services, Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project will operate 3-coach trains to begin with

Change of guard

CITY PAGE 6&7

After completing three years in office under Congress party's 'power-sharing' arrangement, Siddaramaiah paves way for next in line

GBA has reached out to campuses spanning across more than 2 acres to make room for shelters after Supreme Court's stray dog relocation order, but most institutes that already house strays are pleading space crunch

HOMEWARD BOUND, BUT WHERE IS HOME?

Shelter that is coming up in Yelahanka can only house around 500 dogs

Garima Prasher
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Following the Supreme Court's order to relocate stray dogs from institutional campuses to shelter homes, educational institutions that are already housing several strays are in a tizzy as the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) gets busy with spadework.

As part of the ground-level preparation to come with infrastructure to house hundreds of animals, GBA is issuing instructions to institutions with large campuses to create in-house shelters. The idea is to decentralise shelters and reduce land requirements.

The North City Corporation of GBA has 901 stray dogs that will require shelter homes as per the SC's order. While a shelter in Yelahanka with a capacity to house nearly 500 dogs is expected to be ready by the end of this month, the corporation will have to come up with another facility to accommodate the rest of the animals.

"We have approached multiple institutions and instructed them to create a shelter on their campus. The instruction is in line with the standard operating procedure issued by the Animal Welfare Board of India," said a GBA official from North City Corporation.

According to the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) by

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

The Chiboo Chronicles
ನಮ್ಮ
June 2025, #001
STREETIES
Echoes of the Streets: Uncovering the Untold Stories of Wanna Streeties
Rosey—a charming creature of a more introverted nature, yet one who delights in being near her human companions. Should you offer her a morsel of chicken, she will graciously come to keep you company, always lingering at a respectful distance. Ever the silent guardian, she stands ready to watch over you, though with a certain reserve.
It would be most kind, should you encounter any of Rosey's companions, to extend your generosity with food and water. Such gestures, no doubt, would be deeply appreciated by our dear Rosey.
ROSEY
NO ONE CHALLENGES OUR CULTURE

Page 5
SPCA SLEEPS

> "There are more than 200 dogs on the campus. Managing so many stray dogs in a shelter on campus is a big ask from the institute. We are short of space, and creating shelter for 200 dogs will not be feasible
> —Veterinary College representative

Whose parking space is it anyway?

KAUSHIK JN

Multi-level parking facility purportedly built for vendors at Gandhi Bazar is being used to display vehicles on sale

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The ground-plus four-floor car parking that is being built at Gandhi Bazar seems to be a complete waste of tax-payers' money. The ground plus four-floor complex is supposed to decongest traffic and make sufficient space for pedestrians on the footpath. The Greater Bengaluru Authority has spent Rs 27 crore for the construction of shops and parking facilities.

Bangalore Mirror
Patch-work at Gandhi Bazar
An onlooker keep tripping on footpaths of newly-developed marketplace, questions raised over quality of work

BM reported on May 26 about sorry shape of footpaths at Gandhi Bazar

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Bollywood playlist

Rudraksha Live Entertainment Pvt Ltd presents Jazbaa, a concert featuring Vishal and Rekha Bhardwaj — a powerhouse duo in Indian music and cinema, known for their deeply moving collaborations and individual brilliance. Where: Phoenix Marketcity; When: May 30, 7 pm

02 Behind the screen

Cinema & Beyond is hosting The Cinema Of Bimal Roy, a three hour immersive journey into the artistry of Bimal Roy's films— exploring stories, emotions, memorable scenes and timeless songs that continue to resonate with audiences. Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: May 31, 4 pm

03 Childhood wonder

Magical World, an exhibition featuring a vibrant collection of artworks by Badrunissa Irfan, brings alive the magic of childhood and the warmth of simple moments through playful, hand-painted characters and scenes. Where: Sublime Gallery, UB City; When: Until May 30

04 Family fiesta

The Oterra Hotel is hosting a Kids Carnival Brunch, bringing a vibrant world of cartoon legends and superhero adventures. While parents enjoy a premium spread, children can dive into interactive games, live performances and more. Where: The Oterra Hotel, 24@43, Electronic City; When: May 31

05 Mesmerising music

Candlelight® by Live Your City returns to Bengaluru this season, offering audiences intimate evenings where thousands of glowing candles transform venues into immersive settings for unforgettable live music experiences. Where: Samarthanam Auditorium– Managed by Theatrenama; When: May 30, 6.30 pm, 8.30 pm

Startup support systems fuel growth in entrepreneurship

Bengaluru's incubation landscape is evolving into dynamic platform driving progress by supporting startups through funding, mentorship, technology access and broader growth opportunities

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Founders often seek funding access, market linkages and mentorship during the shift from prototype to scaling

Bengaluru remains at the epicentre of startups and tech firms, and of late the city's incubation ecosystem is increasingly becoming a bridge between research, innovation and market ready entrepreneurship, shaping the lives of many who have been looking for a serious shift. The same has helped many young founders navigate funding gaps, mentorship, compliance hurdles and commercialisation challenges that many face, while for some it has been a hassle, further worsening funding roadmaps.

At the forefront of this ecosystem is AIC-DSU Innovation Foundation which currently supports over 40 startups across mobility, waste management and healthcare sectors, while a major chunk is dedicated to technology-driven ventures. In the last six years, the centre has incubated over 150 ventures, many working on AI-enabled applications and deep tech solutions with intellectual property potential. Vinod Shankar from AIC-DSU Innovation Foundation said the centre has seen over 60 per cent of its startup programmes progress from ideation to prototype development and later to market validation, sometimes within the year.

"In the past year, we have actively facilitated financial assistance of over Rs 50 crore through government, institutional and private funding agencies such as Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), Department of Science and Technology (DST), Startup India initiatives, Karnataka State Government startup programmes, CSR grant partnerships, angel investors and VCs," said Shankar.

According to Shankar, the founders that approach him are usually working professionals transitioning into entrepreneurship, researchers, PhD scholars and college students building solutions for real world problems.

Incubation centres are increasingly functioning beyond coworking or infrastructure spaces and are becoming a commercialisation platform, aiding founders scale products into sustainable businesses. The ecosystem now relies and focuses on seed funding, mentorship, market access, compliance assistance, technological support, networking opportunities and intellectual property guidance, especially for AI-driven and sustainability focused startup solutions.

He further shared that the selection process remains stringent as startups are evaluated based on innovation, scalability, social impact, market potential, business differentiation and the strength of the founding team. For founders, the most sought after provision is support through funding access along with market linkages and mentorship, particularly during the transition from prototype to customer acquisition and business scaling. One such startup is Jalodbust which focuses on mechanised manhole cleaning systems aimed at reducing deaths caused by manual scavenging. Founder Rakesh shared that the idea emerged after he read about the devastating death of a manual scavenger in 2018.

"The apathy of the system, where people were regularly dying in urban centres in pits as deep as 10 feet, gave me the chills. Ever since, I have redirected my focus on practical solutions," said Rakesh.

He explained that institutional backing in India has remained difficult due to sanitation being viewed as a low profit and government-linked sector. "There are challenges like public grants, delays, reductions in sanctioned grants and gaps in implementation in subsidy schemes which often land many startups offering practical solutions in the back seat," he added.

Startup incubation process remains stringent, with evaluations based on innovation, scalability, social impact, market potential, business differentiation and founding team

Vishwanath G, founder of a technology consultancy, said his company's primary goal is to develop home grown, made in India technology. However, he noted, the journey comes with significant challenges, particularly in areas such as approach, funding, international collaboration and exposure, as well as forums for technology platforms. "The silver lining though is the grit and determination coupled with every emerging technology upgrade," he added.

PIC: KAUSHIK JN

Togetherness in prayer Thousands of people across the city gathered in mosques, community grounds and public spaces to mark Eid al-Adha on Thursday

₹10,000 fine, imprisonment announced for illegal homestays

Homestay operators in Bengaluru Urban district running without mandatory registration under the Karnataka Tourism Trade (Facilitation and Regulation) Act, 2015, now face penalties of up to Rs 10,000 and possible imprisonment of up to two months, officials have warned. The Tourism Department has made registration compulsory for all homestays amid a sharp rise in tourism activities, stressing that unregulated units pose risks to visitor safety and service standards. Authorities have directed all unregistered homestay owners to immediately apply for registration with the Tourism Department by submitting required documents including local body NOC, property records, police clearance and identity proofs. Officials cautioned that failure to comply will lead to strict enforcement action, including closure of operations and prosecution under the Act. The department also reiterated that any illegal or suspicious activity within homestays and resorts will attract stringent legal consequences. — BMB

Delay in supply of textbooks ahead of new academic year raises concerns

With the 2026-27 academic year set to begin on May 29, concerns are mounting over delays in supplying textbooks to government and aided schools across Karnataka. The Karnataka Textbook Society has completed only 85 per cent of printing work, while nearly 15 per cent of textbooks are still pending. Printing approval, usually granted in December, was issued only in February this year, delaying the entire process. Around 6.74 crore textbooks are to be supplied to nearly 61 lakh students studying in over 46,000 government schools and 1,300 government PU colleges, with the government allocating Rs 264.62 crore for distribution.

Officials said books are being dispatched to taluk-level warehouses, but it may take at least one to two months for all students to receive textbooks at the school level. The Textbook Society has warned printers of penalties for delayed supply and directed the Education Department to track distribution through the SATS system. Meanwhile, uncertainty also surrounds free PU textbooks introduced this year, as printing for pre-university courses covering 34 subjects is likely to face further delays. — BMB

K-tech

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

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Kidvento Education and Research Private Limited is the implementation partner for Digital Art Centre (DAC) 2.0, a programme of the KARNATAKA INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY SOCIETY (KITS), Department of Electronics, IT & BT, Government of Karnataka.
We invite applications from eligible Fine Arts Colleges across Karnataka to onboard under the DAC 2.0 Programme

OBJECTIVES:
- Digital art access
- Innovation learning
- Creative infrastructure
- Industry-ready ecosystems

ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS
- Government Fine Arts Colleges
- Aided Fine Arts Colleges
- Private Fine Arts Colleges

APPLY NOW

https://forms.gle/i2s41DB7DEcJsXoj9

Traffic police respond to illegal number plate complaint

After a post on X on an illegal number plate gathered attention, traffic police quickly stepped in. The X user @PhilReyes07 posted that a white SUV on Brigade Road had 'Corporator' written in bold letters on the number plate. The post gained attention from netizens who expressed concerns over special treatment, violation of traffic rules and unequal enforcement of regulations followed by the general public.

Responding to the post, the traffic police directed the X user to download the BTP Astram App and report the traffic violation. However, the user claimed that the app was unable to complete the upload despite multiple attempts. The user also stated that the vehicle had pre existing pending traffic violations worth Rs 4,000 and attached screenshots of the same on X.

In response, traffic officials clarified that reported violations are first pushed to a validation page and, after verification, moved to the challan server. Officials also stated that uploads from a phone gallery may be rejected if geolocation data or proper date and time details are missing from the image.

The Traffic Police responded to several netizens with similar concerns and asked the public to wait for the complaints to be updated. –BMB

CRIME FILES

Stolen vehicles, gas cylinders seized

Puttenahalli police officials have seized five two-wheelers and eight gas cylinders amounting to a total of Rs 2.65 lakh and arrested two people. The case originates from a complaint by resident of Nrupatunga Nagar on March 28.

The man had complained that when he was asleep in the shed, a person broke in and threatened him with a machete, demanding money and forcibly taking Rs 5,000 from him. The thief later fled on a two-wheeler along with an accomplice.

On May 20, police nabbed the two accused and seized their vehicle. The accused confessed to multiple thefts of two-wheelers and gas cylinders under Madiwala, Jayanagar and Kumaraswamy police station jurisdictions. –BMB

Lost boy reunited with mother

A boy, found wandering near Gate No 2 of MS Ramaiah College around 9.52 am on May 26 was reunited with his mother with police help. The boy was noticed by citizens, who contacted Namma 112. Shortly after, Hoysala 13 from Yeshwanthpur Police Station was alerted and reached the spot within 14 minutes.

Upon gathering information, police found that the boy was eight years old and identified as Tejas. Police learnt that the boy had wandered away from his home. Members of the public nearby informed the police that the boy's mother had been searching for him in Mathikere.

Police soon traced the mother of the child and, after ensuring their safety, handed the boy back to her. –BMB

Life savings gone, justice denied

An elderly woman who allegedly lost all her life savings in jewellery in an house theft at Hennur is still awaiting justice. With most of the valuables yet to be recovered, X user @DevilsGalSharin highlighted the matter in a post and further stated that the accused, who is out on bail, tried absconding and failed to appear before the court.

The post tagged Bengaluru City Police along with the East Division DCP and Hennur Police Station. Responding to the complaint, the police stated that they were looking into the matter and that the case remains under investigation. –BMB

After standing us up many times, flyover has got a new date

Officials say due to vehicular traffic on Doddaballapur Main Road, they can only work at night on Yelahanka flyover, but it will be wrapped up by October-end

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The 1.8-kilometre flyover between Yelahanka police station and Seshadripuram First Grade College Junction on Doddaballapur Main Road will be open to the public by the end of October this year, the North City Corporation office has confirmed. This comes after repeated changes in deadlines raising citizens' skepticism over its completion and usefulness.

According to special commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar, nearly 70% of the funds earmarked for the project have been utilised so far, and 75% of the construction work is complete.

"We have reviewed the progress on the ground and have set October as the deadline for project completion. Out of the total fund of Rs 175 crore, Rs 119 crore has been utilised, and nearly 75% of the work on the flyover is completed so far. The flyover will be open to the public by the end of October," said Kumar. Officials say the sluggish pace of work is due to a surge in vehicular traffic on Doddaballapur Main Road, leaving only night hours available for on-ground work on the project.

"The reason behind the delay is limited working hours. We are not allowed to work during the daytime due to vehicular traffic. The movement of heavy machinery in traffic also poses challenges. Thus, even if additional batches of workers are brought in, it will not be useful," Kumar added.

The lack of an alternative road to divert traffic from Doddaballapur Main Road during the day is a major challenge, according to officials.

There is no alternative road to divert traffic from Doddaballapur Main Road during the day

Change of plans

The project awarded in January 2022 was initially expected to be completed by July 2023, as per the detailed project report. The Greater Bengaluru Authority (erstwhile Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike), while launching it, announced that it was looking to wrap up the project by December 2022. However, multiple deadlines have passed since then.

The flyover was first expected to be inaugurated by July 2023. The deadline was later moved to December 2023, followed by a series of extended deadlines of December 2024, March 2025, December 2025, and May 2026.

The most recent deadline set for completion was September 2026.

Commuters say vehicular traffic in the area has grown multifold since the flyover construction began more than four years ago.

Even if completed by October, it is likely that the project will not provide much relief to commuters.

"The issue is the increase in travel time due to the flyover construction narrowing the road width and unattended craters. Sometimes, even during the wee hours, travel time was more. Dust from the construction activity has deteriorated air quality in the area. It is doubtful that the flyover will resolve the issue as the traffic density has increased manifold since construction began in 2022," said P Vidyasagar Arya, a resident of Ramki North on Doddaballapur Main Road.

Once completed, the flyover is expected to reduce vehicular traffic by linking four traffic junctions: Yelahanka police station, Seshadripuram First Grade College Junction, NES Circle, and Sandeep Unnikrishnan Circle. Moreover, the 1.8 km stretch will give its users signal-free passage too.

BM Food & Night Life

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Long & short of it: 3-coach trains aim to cut waiting time

K-RIDE opts for shorter suburban trains initially to reduce commuter waiting time and improve service frequency on expanding rail corridors efficiently

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K-RIDE has ordered 153 coaches from ICF as part of the first operational phase of the suburban rail project

The Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project (BSRP) has decided to operate three-coach trains in the initial phase of the network to reduce passenger waiting time and ensure high-frequency services across the city's expansive suburban rail system. The project, being implemented by Karnataka Rail Infrastructure Development Company (K-RIDE), will eventually cover nearly 148 km across multiple corridors in and around Bengaluru. Officials believe the three-coach configuration will help maintain train intervals as short as five minutes, unlike six-coach trains, which would require a gap of 15 to 20 minutes between services because of operational limitations and rolling stock availability. According to K-RIDE officials, each coach will accommodate nearly 300 passengers, with about 75 per cent seating capacity reserved for commuters. Overall, each train is expected to carry between 900 and 1,000 passengers.

Recently, K-RIDE issued a work order to Integral Coach Factory (ICF) for the supply of 153 coaches for the suburban rail network. Officials said the full 148-km network could eventually require nearly 600 coaches as operations expand. Earlier, the project explored a public-private partnership model for rolling stock procurement, but contractors reportedly showed little interest, forcing authorities to hand over the responsibility directly to ICF.

The first phase of operations is expected to begin on the Mallige corridor connecting Baiyappanahalli and Chikkabanavara, and train deployment plans are currently under way. K-RIDE officials said operating shorter trains initially would allow more frequent services, reducing commuter waiting time and improving efficiency in the growing urban transport network.

Construction work on stations between Chikkabanavara and Yeshwanthpur under the Mallige corridor is progressing steadily. The Yeshwanthpur suburban rail station is being developed as a major elevated intermodal transit hub with five operational floors and two underground parking levels, taking the total structure to seven floors. Authorities are designing the station to accommodate future expansion, including the operation of nine-coach trains if required later.

First phase of operations expected to begin on Mallige corridor connecting Baiyappanahalli and Chikkabanavara with construction work on stations progressing steadily; Yeshwanthpur station will be intermodal transit hub

The station will also feature direct pedestrian connectivity to the Namma Metro station and integration with the existing Yeshwanthpur railway station. Officials said platforms across the suburban rail network are being built long enough to support nine-coach trains in the future, ensuring scalability as passenger demand rises.

Although the suburban trains are expected to resemble metro trains externally, officials are planning modifications to the interior layout to suit longer-distance commuter travel. Discussions with ICF are underway regarding improved seating arrangements and dedicated luggage space inside coaches. Platform screen doors are also expected to be installed at stations as part of the project's modern safety measures.

Meanwhile, land acquisition for the construction of a depot near Akkupete for the Sampige corridor connecting Majestic and Devanahalli has been completed. K-RIDE officials said preparatory work for the depot construction would begin soon. Citizen groups have welcomed the suburban rail initiative but stressed the need for adequate seating and luggage facilities considering the long-distance travel involved on several suburban routes across Bengaluru and surrounding regions.

Metro barricades rise as crowding pressures intensify across key stations

The Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has expanded its crowd management measures by installing steel barricades at three more high-footfall Metro stations Indiranagar Metro Station, Krishnarajapura Metro Station and Benniganahalli Metro Station in an effort to improve commuter safety and regulate passenger movement. The move follows the earlier installation of barricades at Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Metro Station and RV Road Metro Station, both among the busiest stations in the Namma Metro network.

According to BMRCL, Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Metro Station, which connects the Purple and Green Lines, handles more than 2.5 lakh commuters daily, while RV Road Metro Station records over 55,000 passengers every day. Among the newly covered stations, Benniganahalli Metro Station sees nearly 48,000 commuters daily, followed by Indiranagar Metro Station with around 43,000 passengers and Krishnarajapura Metro Station with approximately 35,000 daily users.

As daily ridership grows, three of the busy stops, Indiranagar Metro Station, Krishnarajapura Metro Station and Benniganahalli Metro Station also get safeguards to improve crowd management

BMRCL said it installed the barricades to improve crowd management, maintain orderly queues and enhance commuter safety during peak hours. The corporation added that it would implement similar measures at other stations in phases, based on operational requirements and passenger volume. Urban mobility experts welcomed the move but stressed that barricades alone would not sufficiently address congestion at major Metro hubs. "Physical barricading can help streamline passenger movement, especially during rush hours, but long-term crowd management requires better station design and technology-driven monitoring systems," said an urban transport planner. A commuter rights activist, Meera, said the Metro operator must also focus on improving last-mile connectivity and platform management.

"At stations like Majestic and RV Road, overcrowding begins even before commuters enter the paid concourse area. Wider pedestrian pathways, better signage, and synchronised feeder services are equally important for reducing bottlenecks," she said. She also urged authorities to deploy additional staff during evening peak hours to help regulate commuter movement effectively.

— BMB

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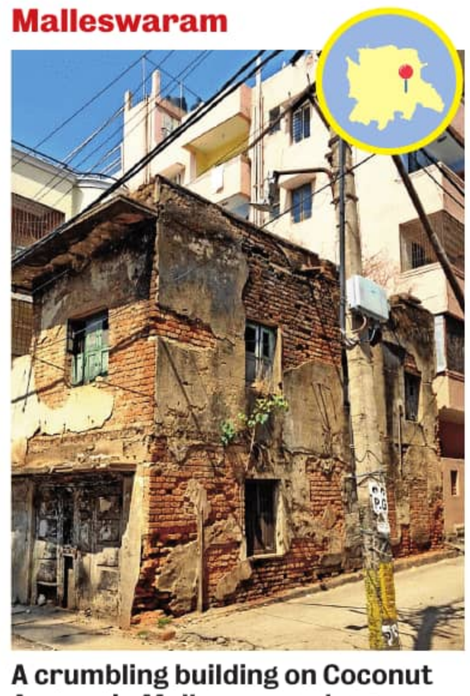
Repaired manhole
Kadugodi

Following a reader's complaint published in these columns, BWSSB repaired the damaged manhole cover near Kadugodi.

Garbage menace
Jeevanahalli main road

Garbage dumped beside a transformer on the footpath along Jeevanahalli Main Road is forcing pedestrians onto the busy carriageway.

Unsafe building
Malleswaram



A crumbling building on Coconut Avenue in Malleswaram has become a serious safety hazard for pedestrians and motorists.

POCSO case quashed as survivor seeks peaceful life with accused

The Karnataka High Court has quashed criminal proceedings against a 28-year-old man booked under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act after the survivor informed the court that she had married him, was pregnant and wanted to continue her marital life peacefully.

Justice Geetha BK passed the order while allowing a petition filed by the accused, a porter by profession, seeking to set aside the case registered in 2024 on a complaint lodged by the survivor's mother.

The court noted that the alleged incident took place when the girl was 17 years, 11 months and 21 days old, just days short of attaining majority. After becoming a major, she chose to stay with the accused, married him and is now expecting a child, the order observed.

According to the prosecution, the man had been charged under Sections 363 and 376(2)(N) of the Indian Penal Code along with Sections 4 and 6 of the POCSO Act. The trial was underway when the survivor appeared before the court and declined to support the allegations made against him.

During the hearing, the woman submitted that she was living happily with her husband and his family.

Taking note of her statement and the couple's present circumstances, the court observed that continuation of the criminal proceedings would adversely affect their future and the life of the child expected to be born soon. **–BMB**

IN COURT

DKS permitted to travel abroad

A Bengaluru court has granted Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar permission to travel abroad for the next two years in connection with an ongoing tax evasion case registered against him by the Income Tax Department.

The order was passed by the Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate in Bengaluru after Shivakumar moved an application seeking relaxation of a bail condition that required prior court approval for overseas travel.

The court allowed him to visit the United States, the United Kingdom, several European countries, Australia, Russia and Arab nations for official and business-related engagements. However, the permission comes with conditions, including mandatory prior intimation to the investigating agency regarding travel schedules and details of each visit. The court also directed him to appear before it whenever required during the course of the proceedings. **–BMB**

'LOC can't bar travel fully'

The Karnataka High Court has held that a Look-Out Circular (LOC) cannot be used to completely prevent a bankrupt guarantor from travelling abroad when such travel is necessary for official or professional responsibilities. The court observed that restrictions imposed through an LOC must be proportionate and cannot operate in a manner that deprives an individual of carrying out legitimate business or employment-related duties.

The ruling came in a case involving a guarantor facing insolvency-related proceedings who sought permission to travel overseas for official engagements. While examining the matter, the High Court noted that insolvency or financial distress by itself cannot justify a blanket restriction on foreign travel. **–BMB**

Inactivity of B'luru SPCA sparks concern over animal welfare

Activists claim organisation has not held mandatory meetings in past seven months, warning that lapse may allow illegal breeding, exploitation and abuse to go unchecked

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Regular meetings and proper functioning of SPCA are said to be crucial, especially against the backdrop of Supreme Court's order on stray dogs

The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) is mandated to implement animal welfare laws, oversee shelters and meet once every three months under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Rules, 2001. However, activists allege that the Bengaluru Urban SPCA last convened in October 2025, with no meeting held in the past seven months despite a Supreme Court order on stray dogs.

Animal welfare groups argue that authorities must ensure regular meetings chaired by the Deputy Commissioner, as required by law. While the DC is not expected to handle daily SPCA operations, the statutory quarterly meeting cannot proceed without the Chairman or a designated nominee.

Animal activists have accused Dr KT Parameshwar, Deputy Director of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Sciences and Member Secretary of the SPCA, of failing to convene meetings on time. They also allege that SPCA meetings have been improperly continued in the absence of the Deputy Commissioner.

Activists further stressed that Animal Birth Control (ABC) monitoring committee meetings must be held monthly and that the SPCA Member Secretary is responsible for convening them without fail.

"The District SPCA Bengaluru Urban has collapsed under the watch of its Member Secretary, Dr Parameshwar, DD AH&VS. Mandated quarterly meetings are not held, ABC Rules 2023 remain unenforced and no infirmary or public grievance system exists. With no inspections, audits or police coordination, illegal dog relocations, cruelty cases and shelter violations go unchecked. This dereliction of duty under the PCA Act, 1960, betrays both animals and public trust, demanding immediate administrative accountability. The DC is Chairman and has to be at the meetings which has not happened since Dr Parameshwar has taken position," said Sujaya Jagadish, member of SPCA.

Animal welfare advocate urges SPCA to make meetings more open, inclusive and transparent and ensure that volunteers are invited and heard as stakeholders in animal welfare and cruelty prevention

Nevina Kamath, Secretary of Action for Animal Justice, said that the Bengaluru SPCA has come under severe criticism for its persistent failure to hold mandatory monthly meetings which directly cripples its ability to address the alarming rise in animal cruelty cases across the city. "By ignoring the statutory administrative timelines, the committee operates without accountability, leaving local activists, animal rescuers and citizens without an official platform to report grievances or coordinate enforcement actions. The inexplicable dereliction of duty by DD Urban who is Member Secretary SPCA, has created an enforcement vacuum," said Kamath.

She warned that this lapse may enable illegal breeders, commercial exploiters and perpetrators of both institutional and street-level abuse to operate with impunity. "Without regular, structured oversight and strategic intervention from the Society, Bengaluru Urban's animal welfare infrastructure remains entirely toothless and incapable of implementing systemic solutions to protect vulnerable animals," she said.

Stating that the SPCA meetings must be conducted regularly and transparently, especially at a time when incidents of animal cruelty are increasing across the city and state, Aniruddha Ravindra of Praana Animal Foundation, said that it is extremely important that not only official members, but also ground-level volunteers and animal welfare workers are allowed to attend these meetings and share their inputs.

"Without transparency, accountability cannot exist. The people who are directly rescuing animals, handling cruelty cases and working on the ground every single day must have a voice in the decision making process. We request the government authorities to make SPCA meetings more open, inclusive and transparent and to ensure that volunteers are invited and heard as stakeholders in animal welfare and cruelty prevention," he said.

However, SPCA Member Secretary Dr KT Parameshwar said that three meetings of the SPCA were held. "One meeting is to be held but can be convened before October," he said.

Student bus pass applications to go live today

As per an announcement made by the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC), students can apply online for concessional bus passes for the academic year 2026-2027 through the Seva Sindhu portal from May 29. The corporation stated that, as per government directions, the student bus pass distribution process has been fully computerised.

Students studying in primary schools, high schools and PU colleges or those pursuing professional courses and PhD programmes can apply for the pass free of cost through the portal. However, a service charge of Rs 30 will be applicable for application submission at Karnataka One, Grama One and Bangalore One centres.

The corporation further stated that students must download and submit a declaration form while applying and also select their preferred pass collection counter. Once approval is completed, students will receive an SMS on their registered mobile number mentioning the collection centre details. Passes can be collected from Karnataka One centres, KSRTC bus stands and Grama One counters from June 1 onwards. **–BMB**

Man loses over ₹1.66 crore in dating app scam

A 32-year-old man from Bengaluru was allegedly cheated of Rs 1.66 crore in an online trading scam after being lured through a dating application by an unidentified woman who gained his trust over several months. According to the complaint, the victim came in contact with a woman identifying herself as Riya Agarwal on a dating app on February 15. Police said the accused allegedly stayed in constant touch with the complainant through audio and video calls and even introduced him to people claiming to be her family members to gain his confidence. The woman later allegedly convinced the victim to invest in an online trading platform called "Global Prime," claiming he could earn huge profits through trading. Police said the victim gradually invested over Rs 1.66 crore between February and May 2026. However, apart from receiving Rs 4,250 initially, he did not receive any returns. The accused later stopped responding, following which the victim approached the police. A case has been registered at Southeast CEN Police Station and further investigation is underway. **–BMB**

From cattle herder to Chief Minister: Siddaramaiah's long political arc comes full circle

Village boy turned political heavyweight, Siddaramaiah closes remarkable chapter after reshaping Karnataka through welfare schemes, caste equations, and ambition

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With Siddaramaiah stepping down from office, Karnataka politics enters a new phase, even as his supporters hail his tenure as one of the most consequential in the state's recent history.

Born in August 1947 in Siddaramanahundi village in Mysuru district, Siddaramaiah's rise is often described as a classic story of political ascent from the grassroots. Raised in modest circumstances, he spent his early years tending cattle and began formal schooling only in Class 4. He later earned a law degree before entering public life. His father, Siddarame Gowda, unsuccessfully contested local body elections and is said to have cautioned him against trusting politics. Despite that, Siddaramaiah entered electoral politics and won his first Taluk Board election, laying the foundation for a career spanning nearly five decades.

Over the course of his journey, Siddaramaiah contested 12 Assembly elections and won nine, while also earning the distinction of presenting 17 state budgets, one of the highest tallies by any Karnataka leader.

His early political grooming came under former Prime Minister and JD(S) leader HD Deve Gowda, who is widely regarded as his mentor in building a mass political base. However, ideological differences eventually led Siddaramaiah to break away from the Janata Dal fold. He later joined the Congress, where he rose to become a two-time Chief Minister and eventually Karnataka's longest-serving CM.

Siddaramaiah's tenure has been marked by a strong focus on welfare politics and social justice. Initiatives such as internal reservation measures, representation for oppressed communities in public contracts, and expanded Cabinet inclusion for backward classes have been projected by his supporters as landmark interventions in Karnataka's governance model.

Twice-elected administrator, coalition negotiator bows out after eventful career featuring dramatic comebacks, ideological confrontations, and welfare-driven transformation initiatives

His political trajectory includes several key milestones and setbacks. He first contested the Assembly election in 1978 from Chamundeshwari on a Lok Dal ticket led by former Prime Minister Charan Singh, but lost. He secured his first Assembly victory in 1983 as an Independent candidate. In 1988, he served as Transport Minister in the SR Bommai Cabinet, but faced defeat in the 1989 Assembly election and later lost the 1991 Lok Sabha election from Koppal.

In 1992, he joined the Janata Dal after the Samajwadi Janata Party merger, and his career gained momentum in 1994 when he won from Chamundeshwari and became Finance Minister in the Deve Gowda government. Two years later, he was elevated to Deputy Chief Minister in the JH Patel administration. He returned to the Assembly in 2004, securing another victory from Chamundeshwari.

A turning point came in 2005 with the launch of the AHINDA movement, after which he was expelled from the JD(S). In 2006, he joined the Congress in the presence of then party president Sonia Gandhi and narrowly won a by-election by 257 votes. In 2008, he won from Varuna, marking his sixth Assembly victory.

His political peak arrived in 2013 when he was sworn in as Chief Minister on May 13. In the 2018 elections, he contested from both Badami and Chamundeshwari, winning one and losing the other. He later played key roles in the Congress–JD(S) coalition arrangement as coordination committee chairman and subsequently served as Leader of the Opposition in 2019.

At 78, Siddaramaiah now joins an elite list of Karnataka leaders who have held the Chief Minister's post more than once, including S Nijalingappa, Veerendra Patil, D Devaraj Urs, Ramakrishna Hegde, HD Kumaraswamy, and BS Yediyurappa.

High Command asked me to quit: Siddaramaiah

Siddaramaiah on Thursday said he had resigned as Karnataka Chief Minister after the Congress leadership instructed him to do so two days earlier. Addressing the media, Siddaramaiah said he had repeatedly maintained that he would abide by any decision taken by the party's central leadership and had accordingly stepped down when directed. He added that the high command had given the instruction two days before his resignation, which he formally submitted on Thursday.

He also expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve Karnataka twice as Chief Minister, thanking senior Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge for their support. Clarifying his political priorities, Siddaramaiah said the party high command had once offered him a Rajya Sabha seat, but he chose to continue working in Karnataka politics instead, stating that he preferred to honour his mandate as an elected MLA and remain committed to state-level responsibilities.

THURSDAY SIDELIGHTS

Rising emotions

Supporters of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah staged protests across Karnataka on Thursday, opposing his decision to resign. Emotional scenes unfolded outside his official Bengaluru residence, Kaveri, where supporters gathered in large numbers, urging him not to step down as he attempted to calm them. As Siddaramaiah prepared to leave for Lok Bhavan to submit his resignation, tensions escalated, with some supporters attempting to block his vehicle.

In Shivamogga, protesters, largely from the Kuruba community, demonstrated at Shivappa Nayaka Circle, burning tyres and raising slogans demanding that Siddaramaiah continue as Chief Minister.

In Yadgir, Rajkumar Ganeer, a loyal supporter of Siddaramaiah, staged a silent protest near Subhash Chandra Circle, expressing anguish over the resignation.

Emotional farewell

Excise Minister RB Timmapur on Thursday gave an emotional account of the breakfast meeting where Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced his decision to resign. Timmapur said the entire cabinet was overcome with emotion, with several ministers, including himself, breaking down in tears following Siddaramaiah's announcement. He described the atmosphere as one of "pin-drop silence" before emotions took over, adding that Siddaramaiah himself became emotional after witnessing his colleagues' reactions. Speaking personally, Timmapur credited Siddaramaiah with reviving his political career. Even Labour Minister Santosh Lad was seen teary-eyed during his exit.

Emergency visit

When Siddaramaiah drove to Lok Bhavan to resign, he had to hand over the letter to Governor Thawarachand Gehlot's Special Secretary, Prabhushankar, because the Governor was not in the city. Gehlot suddenly left for his hometown, Nagda, in Madhya Pradesh on Thursday due to his wife's ill health. During the press conference, Siddaramaiah said it was the Governor's constitutional duty to accept the resignation.

Celebration surge

Political activity and celebrations intensified across Karnataka amid the leadership transition. Former MP DK Suresh, brother of DK Shivakumar, arrived at Shivakumar's Bengaluru residence, where supporters gathered in large numbers and distributed sweets in celebration.

In Kalaburagi, members of the Indian Youth Congress performed a special puja at Shri Sharana Basaveshwara Temple, demanding that Minister Priyank Kharge be appointed Deputy Chief Minister in the new cabinet if Shivakumar assumes the top post.

A poster of DK Shivakumar comes up at Mekhri Circle, on Thursday

Symbolic exit

As Chief Minister Siddaramaiah drove to Lok Bhavan to submit his resignation, he chose not to use his official vehicle. Instead, he travelled in a black Land Rover owned by Minister and close aide Byrathi Suresh, who personally drove the car, while Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar sat in the back seat alongside Siddaramaiah.

The gesture carried symbolic significance, similar to May 15, 2018, when Siddaramaiah chose to travel in a personal vehicle while heading to submit his resignation following the Congress party's electoral defeat, signalling that he did not wish to use an official car while stepping down from office.

KAUSHIK JN

Longest-serving CM

Siddaramaiah scripted history on Thursday by becoming the longest-serving Chief Minister in Karnataka's history before resigning from office on May 28, 2026. He completed a total of 2,934 days in office across two tenures.

Earlier, on January 7, 2026, Siddaramaiah crossed 2,793 days in office, surpassing the previous record of 2,792 days held by D Devaraj Urs. His first tenure lasted 1,829 days, beginning on May 13, 2013, and ending on May 15, 2018, after completing a full five-year term. He returned to power for a second term on May 20, 2023, serving 1,105 days before stepping down on Thursday.

Voter 'Gods'

During the press conference, Siddaramaiah said he drew inspiration from Kannada matinee idol Rajkumar in recognising the power of the people. He noted that Rajkumar always addressed his fans as "Abhimaani Devaru" (fans are gods), while he referred to voters as "Matadara Devaru" (voters are gods).

Siddaramaiah said he came from a family with no political background and described himself as an "accidental politician". Recalling his political journey, he said his first electoral victory came in 1978 as a Taluk Board member before he was first elected as an MLA in 1983.

Body language matters

During Thursday morning's breakfast meeting, all eyes were on the body language of Siddaramaiah and DK Shivakumar, who were seated next to each other amid a closely watched leadership transition in Karnataka.

As Siddaramaiah prepared to make way for Shivakumar as part of the Congress party's internal understanding, the two leaders maintained a visibly cordial exchange during the high-profile meeting. Behind the photo opportunities, Shivakumar reportedly stated that while he had made representations to the party high command regarding the leadership change, he had never publicly demanded Siddaramaiah's resignation and had sought his cooperation for a smooth transition.

At the conclusion of the meeting, both leaders embraced, marking an emotional moment. Shivakumar was also seen seeking Siddaramaiah's blessings by touching his feet, while reports suggested he became emotional during the interaction.

DKS' date with destiny

The stage is set for Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president DK Shivakumar to become the next Chief Minister of Karnataka following the resignation of incumbent Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday.

Siddaramaiah's exit comes after he recently completed three years in office under the Congress party's reported power-sharing arrangement, paving the way for Shivakumar to assume the top post. With the leadership transition now virtually finalised, the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) is expected to convene within the next few days to formally elect Shivakumar as its leader, following which he is likely to be sworn in as Chief Minister.

Shivakumar's elevation will mark a significant political milestone, as he will become the second Vokkaliga leader in the past seven years to occupy the Chief Minister's chair in Karnataka.

Meanwhile, intense political activity has begun within the ruling Congress as aspirants lobby for positions in the new cabinet. Several sitting ministers, along with MLAs who had earlier missed out on ministerial berths, are actively seeking inclusion in Shivakumar's team.

Political circles are also abuzz with speculation that Siddaramaiah may seek to retain influence in the new government by urging the Congress high command to accommodate his close aides and loyalists in key ministerial positions.

Police personnel stand guard outside Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's residence amid heightened activity following reports about his announcement to step down

Dalit CM demand on table

Amid ongoing political discussions within the Karnataka Congress, a federation of Dalit organisations on Thursday called upon the party leadership to consider appointing a Dalit Chief Minister, describing it as a long-awaited moment of political representation in the state.

Addressing the media at the Press Club of Bangalore, leaders from the organisations said the demand reflects the aspirations of Dalit communities which, according to them, have stood firmly with the Congress party for decades. Several speakers claimed that a large section of Dalit voters continues to back the party, but representation at the highest level of leadership has remained limited.

The organisations also referred to Congress national president Mallikarjun Kharge, stating that if Karnataka does not get a Dalit Chief Minister even during Kharge's tenure as party chief,

the community fears it may never happen under the Congress. Speakers repeatedly questioned when such an opportunity would arise again, if not now.

With speculation continuing over possible leadership changes within the state government, speakers at the event said the present political climate offers the Congress an opportunity to make what they described as a "historic political decision" by elevating a senior Dalit leader to the top post.

Deputy Chief Minister G Parameshwara's name featured prominently throughout the interaction, with several speakers openly stating that he "deserves" the Chief Minister's post considering his years of administrative experience, contribution to the party, and long-standing political journey within the Congress. Leaders questioned why a senior Dalit leader who has remained loyal to the party for decades was still not being viewed as a front-runner for the role.

The gathering also saw calls directed at Dalit MLAs within the Congress to speak more openly about leadership representation and collectively support the demand.

While emotional in tone, the press conference largely centred on representation, political recognition, and the growing demand for stronger Dalit leadership within Karnataka's evolving political landscape ahead of the upcoming local body elections and the 2028 Assembly polls.

-Muhammed Ameen

Instructions based on AWBI guidelines, not mandatory: GBA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) issued in December last year, the institutions may volunteer for establishing a shelter within their premises on their own expenditure, which have more than two acres of land and have a free space of at least 6000 square feet.

However, most of these institutions are not willing to share the burden.

"We have received instructions from GBA to build a shelter on campus. While the proposal is still under consideration by the management, it is unlikely that the institute will agree. Our campus has nearly 80 stray dogs, and thus managing them will be a tough and risky task, as dogs may get aggressive. There is also a space crunch," said a representative of Atria Institute.

The educational institute, with a campus area of 18 acres, however, agrees that no untoward incident involving stray dogs on the campus has ever taken place despite daily high footfall.

GBA has also approached government institutions such as the Veterinary College in Hebbal and Gandhi Krishi Vigyana Kendra (GKVK).

A representative of the Veterinary College told BM that while GBA has approached with the proposal to construct an on-campus dog shelter, managing a large number of stray dogs on campus will be a big ask.

"We have received the proposal from GBA. But there are more than 200 dogs on the campus. Managing so many stray dogs in a shelter on campus is a big ask from the institute. We are short of space, and creating shelter for 200 dogs will not be feasible," said a representative.

Notably, while the Veterinary College is situated on 196 acres of land, the Gandhi Krishi Vigyana Kendra (GKVK) campus sprawls over 1,300 acres.

Another private institute located in North Bengaluru indicated that, in all probability, the management will decline GBA's request to keep stray dogs on campus.

"We have issued instructions based on AWBI's guideline, which is not mandatory. However, getting land to build a dog shelter is difficult. This is the reason we have asked campuses with an area of more than 2 acres to establish their own shelter. Hopefully, the Karnataka High Court will help resolve the issue," said a GBA official.

Vendors decry misuse of facility

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

It is claimed that most of the space in the parking lot has been allotted to park commercial vehicles. "It is wrong to allow commercial vehicles at the multi-level parking facility. The authorities inaugurated the multi-level parking facility last month with pomp. But the facility is being misused by allowing vehicles meant for showcasing at the showroom. I expected the authorities would complete the formalities to allocate shops for the street vendors on a priority basis. Allocation of shops not only mitigates parking woes on Gandhi Bazar but also helps to decongest the area," said Basavanagudi Heritage Residents' Welfare Association Secretary Guruprasad RK.

Former Leader of Ruling Party of the then Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Ramesh NR said the elected representatives and the authorities are hand in glove to defeat the very purpose of the construction of multi-level parking facility. "The GBA authorities know only how to build structures but they are not interested in putting those structures to good use. For example, the multi-level parking facility on JC Road is being used by multinational companies. There is no space for shop owners to park their vehicles at the multi-level parking facility, thus compelling them to park their vehicles on the footpath in front of their shops," said Ramesh NR.

KAUSHIK JN

A social activist, on the condition of anonymity, said the authorities do not intend to make better use of the parking facility.

Meanwhile, an engineer said the process of allocating shops for street vendors is expected to begin shortly.

Chickpet MLA Uday Garudacharm under whose jurisdiction both the Gandhi Bazar and JC Road parking facilities fall, was not available for comment.

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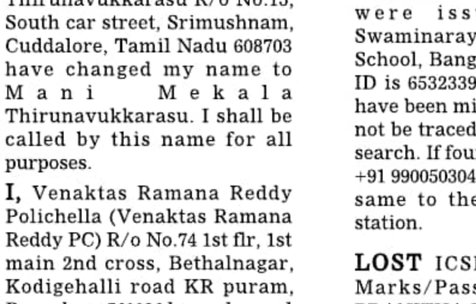

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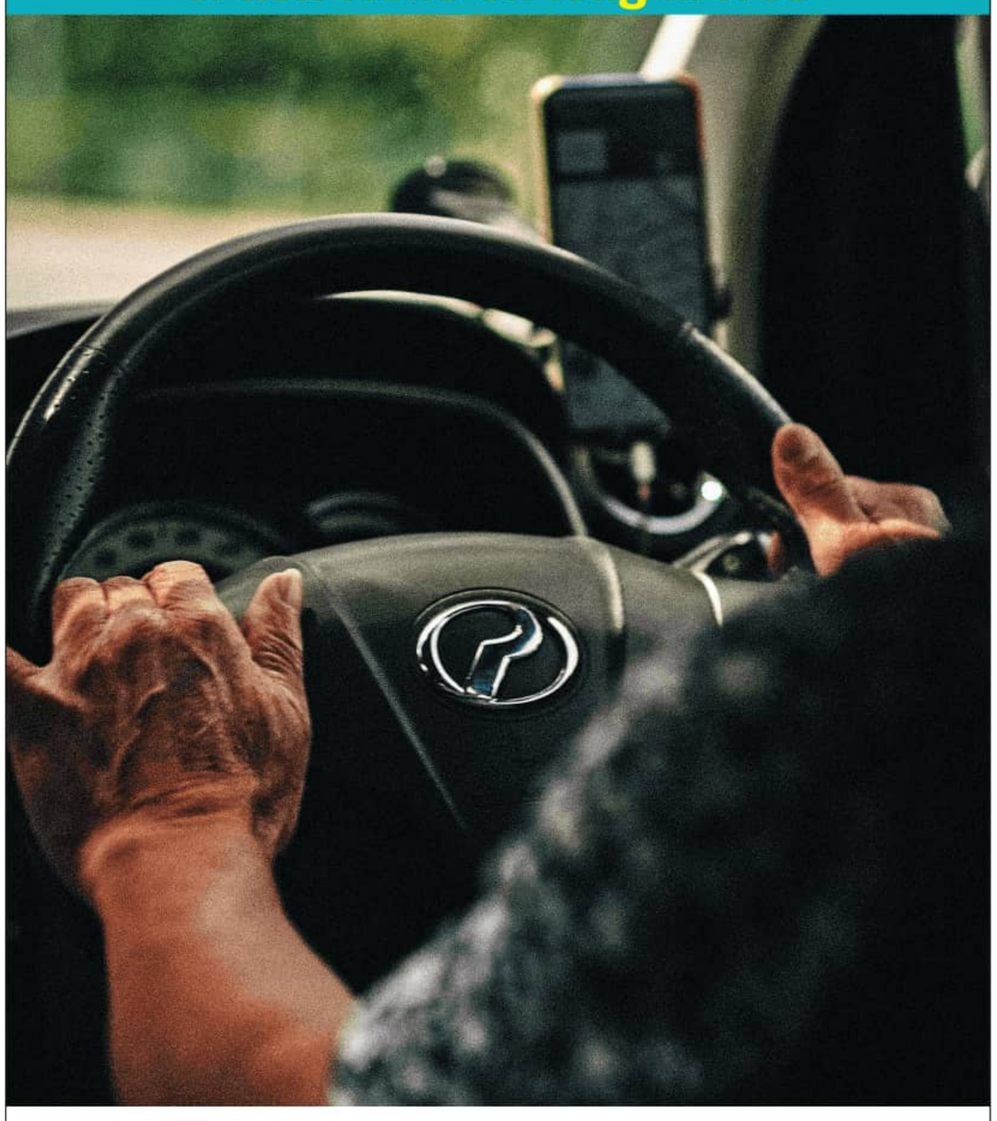
BRAIN FATIGUE BEHIND THE WHEEL

Tired minds slow reactions, increasing crash risks on long drives



Whether you're commuting to work or road-tripping up the coast, driving can be tiring.

That's because driving is a complex task that requires multiple parts of your brain, including those that help you plan, stay alert and perceive the world, to work together.

But when you're tired, these parts of your brain may not function as well. That's one reason why driver fatigue is such a concern.

Recent research shows drowsy driving contributes to between 20 and 30 percent of all crashes on Australian roads. And it can affect drivers of all ages and levels of experience.

So how does driving affect your brain? And how can you stay alert while on the road?

The neuroscience of driving

Driving is a complex task that relies on brain regions that control attention and vigilance, perception, motor control and high-level cognition.

One meta-analysis examined existing research about how driving affects brain activity. It found driving requires a surprisingly large number of specific brain regions.

This includes the cerebellum and premotor cortex, two brain regions that help coordinate movement. Also involved is the extrastriate cortex, which processes visual information from the world around you. Driving also activates the thalamus; a part of the brain that helps you stay alert and turn sensory information into physical movement.

Why is driver fatigue so dangerous?

Research suggests driving while tired can be just as dangerous as driving under the influence of alcohol. About 20 per cent of all deaths on Australian roads are fatigue-related.

Fatigue is a physiological state of impairment that impacts how well your mind and body function. Specifically, fatigue can negatively affect how well you pay attention, make decisions and respond to your surroundings, all of which are crucial for safe driving.

However, microsleeps are perhaps the most dangerous consequence of driving while tired. A microsleep is a brief, involuntary period of sleep that can last up to 15 seconds.

But even during a three-second microsleep at 100 kilometres per hour, your car may travel more than 80 metres without you being in control. This can have catastrophic consequences if you drift off the road or into pedestrians or other vehicles.

Time matters

Driving may feel like a task you do automatically. But it does require a high level of sustained attention, especially compared to other activities such as responding to emails, operating machinery or doing other ordinary work tasks.

If you drive for a long time, you might notice yourself paying less attention over time. That's because driving takes significant mental effort, with some evidence suggesting fatigue may set in after just 60 minutes of driving.

The longer you drive continuously, the more likely you are to make a poor decision or fall into a microsleep.

Research suggests this is especially true if you are driving at night or on monotonous roads. And even if you don't feel tired, you may still make errors because your brain is not fully alert.

So if you have a long drive ahead of you, a good rule of thumb is to break it into two-hour blocks. This limits the amount of time spent driving without a break, which helps reduce your risk of driver fatigue.

Other factors to consider

Several other factors may make you more tired while driving.

One is sleep. Research shows having less than five hours of sleep can double your chances of being in a crash. Being awake for long periods, more than 17 hours, is also associated with a higher risk of driver fatigue.

Another factor is driving at times when you would normally be sleeping. This disrupts your circadian rhythm, commonly known as your "body clock", and may increase the likelihood of falling asleep at the wheel.

Research suggests stress, parenting a newborn, and not consuming enough water or healthy food may also contribute to driver fatigue.

It's also worth noting that being an experienced driver doesn't protect you from fatigue. Research shows experienced drivers still face the risk of getting into a fatigue-related crash.

Experienced drivers may also become overconfident and, as a result, take more risks on the road.

So, how can I stay alert while driving?

It's crucial to get enough sleep before getting behind the wheel. To function at their best, adults generally need between seven and nine hours of sleep each night. But to drive safely, you need at least five hours of sleep the night before.

Importantly, there isn't much evidence to suggest strategies such as winding down your window or listening to music actually fight fatigue.

Instead, when driving long distances, remember to stay hydrated and take regular breaks. If you're feeling too tired to drive, take a nap first. You can also share the driving or postpone your trip.

By Madeline Sprajcer, Alysa Bachmann, CQ University AustraliaThe Conversation

MIRRORLIGHTS

Vitamin deficiencies may trigger fatigue, low energy and motivation, study finds

Deficiencies in vitamin B12 and folate (vitamin B9) are linked with higher homocysteine levels in blood, which could be associated with greater physical fatigue in men and decreased motivation in women, according to a study.

"This suggested relationship between vitamin B12, folate, and fatigue in healthy individuals may represent the first report of its kind. Blood homocysteine levels have traditionally raised concerns in relation to cardiovascular disease, dementia, and fractures," lead researcher Hiroaki Kanouchi, from Osaka Metropolitan University in Japan, said.

"However, our findings suggest that attention should also be paid to fatigue and motivation in the future," Kanouchi said.

Fatigue that does not improve with rest and reduced motivation can affect daily functioning and quality of life. Chronic fatigue, marked by severe and unexplained exhaustion lasting for months, is also associated with lower workplace productivity and increased healthcare use.

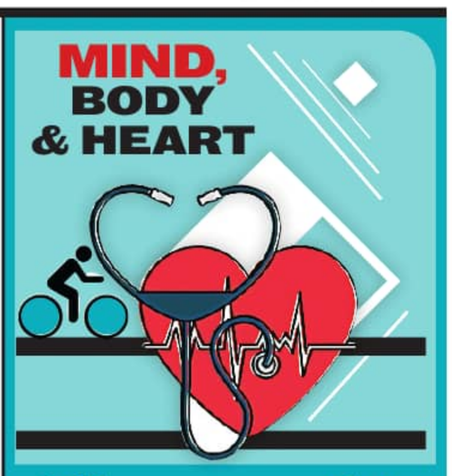
The study, published in the journal Nutrients, examined nutritional status and deficiencies of water-soluble vitamins linked to unbalanced diets. Researchers focused on homocysteine (Hcy), a biomarker known to rise when vitamin B12 and folate levels decline.

The team measured blood concentrations of Hcy, folate and vitamin B12 in more than 600 healthy Japanese participants and assessed fatigue and motivation through questionnaires.

Initial findings showed that participants with higher homocysteine levels had lower concentrations of vitamin B12 and folate, irrespective of sex.

"Higher Hcy tertiles were associated with lower serum folate and vitamin B12 concentrations in both sexes," the authors wrote.

Researchers then separately analysed the relationship between homocysteine levels and fatigue in men and women. "In men, the lowest Hcy tertile (one-third of the entire range of values) was associated with lower Chalder physical fatigue scores, whereas in women the highest Hcy tertile was associated with lower VAS motivation scores in multivariable analyses," the team said. —PTI



All you need to know about...

Hair Revival

Coconut milk hair packs keep your hair nourished and strong with natural DIY remedies that help repair damage, revive dull hair, and restore softness naturally.

Coconut Milk and Honey

A coconut milk and honey hair pack is ideal for dry and dull hair. Mix half a cup of coconut milk with two tablespoons of honey to deeply moisturise and repair damaged strands. Apply the mixture to your scalp and hair, massage gently, and leave it on for 30–40 minutes before rinsing with lukewarm water. This pack leaves hair soft, smooth, and manageable.

Aloe Vera

For dry hair and an irritated scalp, combine half a cup of coconut milk with two tablespoons of fresh aloe vera gel. This soothing mask hydrates the scalp while strengthening the hair shaft. Apply evenly, leave it for 30 minutes, and rinse thoroughly for softer and healthier-looking hair.

Egg

Weak and brittle hair can benefit from a coconut milk and egg mask. Mix half a cup of coconut milk with one whisked egg to create a protein-rich treatment that nourishes and strengthens hair. Leave it on for 20–30 minutes and rinse with cool water to avoid the egg hardening.

Fenugreek seeds

Soak two tablespoons of fenugreek seeds overnight, grind them into a paste, and mix with coconut milk. This hair pack helps reduce hair fall, strengthen roots, and improve texture, leaving hair thicker and healthier.

—Femina

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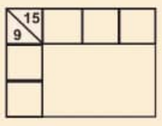
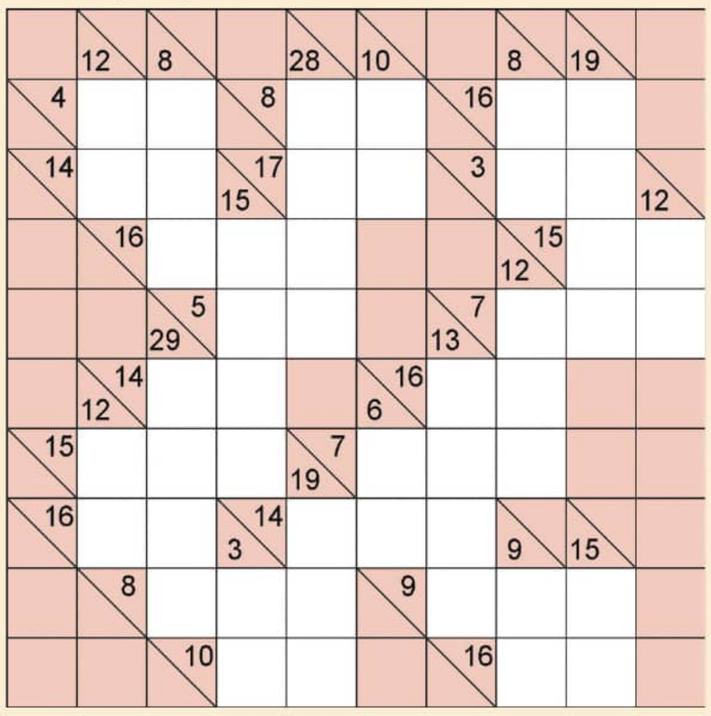
Kakuro

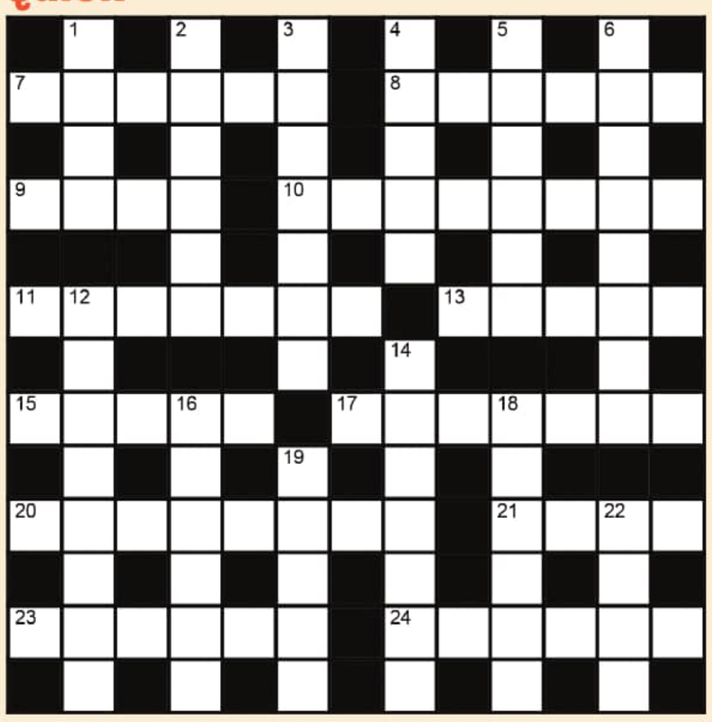
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 A cricketer or a hat (6)
8 Unidirectional (3,3)
9 Make over (4)
10 A piece of lab equipment (4-4)
11 Rubbish container (7)
13 High temperature (5)
15 Greek letter (5)
17 Unhappiest (7)
20 Dr ___ Prasad : First President of India (8)
21 IIM grads. (4)
23 Cosmetics (4-2)
24 Opposed to (6)

DOWN

1 Large cupola (4)
2 With maximum effort? (3,3)
3 Bollywood's ___ Roshan (7)
4 Drink to one's health (5)
5 Water boiler (6)
6 Formerly admired people (3,5)
12 Violent change or disturbance (8)
14 Restaurant at the Leela Place (7)
16 Of rain, poured down (6)
18 More moist (6)
19 Take up as one's own (5)
22 Church recess (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: T EQUALS G

ND KAUPOPXU PX UJS JBOND ASMXKDPIPHNUPKD KI XAMPDT.

Linemaro

We are like parallel lines, with so much in common. Won't it be a shame if we also never meet?

Mindchow

We are like parallel lines, with so much in common. Won't it be a shame if we also never meet?

Joke of the day

Reading computer manuals without the hardware is as frustrating as reading sex manuals without the software

Loop

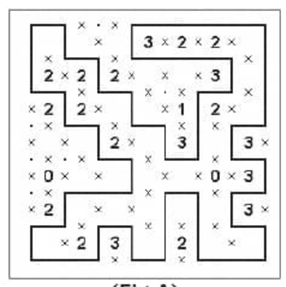
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

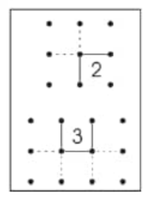
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

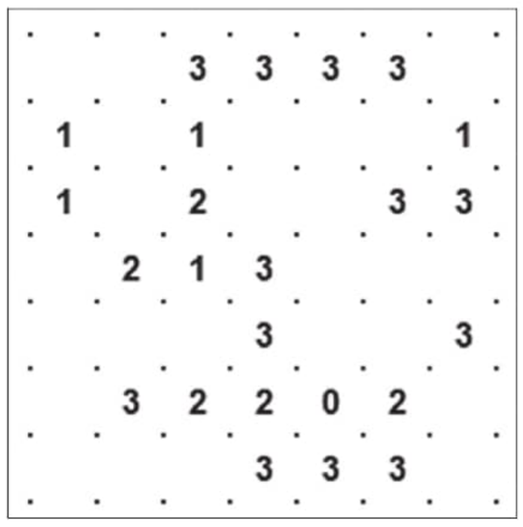
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



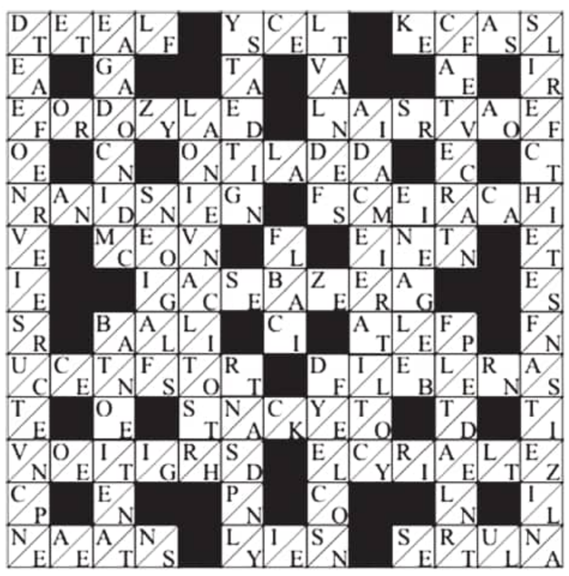
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5 D
6				
7				
8				
9				

ACROSS

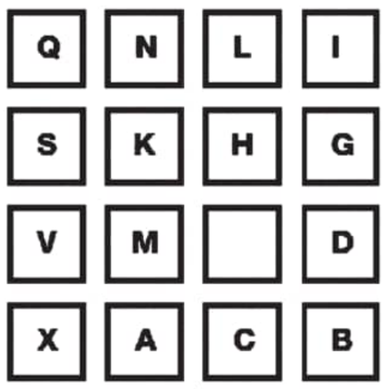
1 Clads; 6 Boo at; 7 Nu Awe; 8 Cafes; 9 L rift

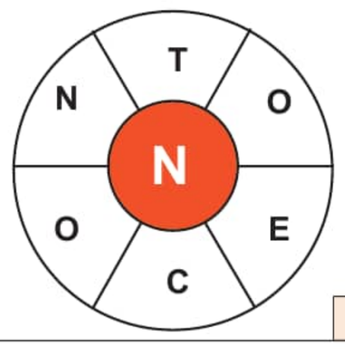
DOWN

1 Tuffs; 2 A clan; 3 I a cab; 4 Rowel; 5 Dotes

Mensapuzzle

Which letter replaces the blank and completes the sequence?





Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

09 Average; 10 Good; 12 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

			4		6			
1	7		2	8	5		3	9
2	9			1			4	5
6		4				3		7
8	5			4			2	6
4	2		3	9	7		6	8
			1		2			

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 16
2 5 6 7

Medium = 9
2 3 5 9

Hard = 15
3 5 6 7

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

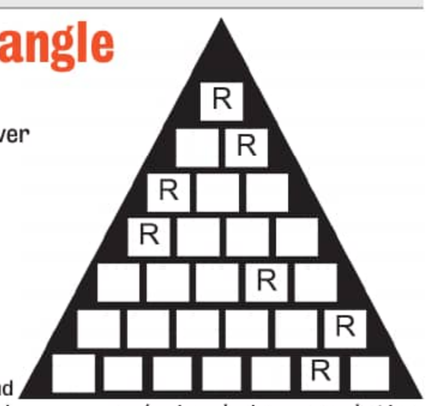
Differences: 1. Leg is moved. 2. Man has more hair. 3. File cabinet is higher. 4. Light is longer. 5. Ear is different. 6. Thumb is moved.

Riddler

Handel has been killed and Beethoven is on the case. He has interviewed the four suspects and their statements are shown below. Each suspect has said two sentences...one sentence of each suspect is a lie and one sentence is the truth. Help Beethoven figure out who the killer is. Joplin: I did not kill Handel. Either Grieg is the killer or none of us is. Grieg: I did not kill Handel. Gershwin is the killer. Strauss: I did not kill Handel. Grieg is lying when he says Gershwin is the killer. Gershwin: I did not kill Handel. If Joplin did not kill him, then Grieg did.

Alpha triangle

1 18th letter
2 Conjunction
3 Tennis champ Laver
4 Make over
5 Not just talkers
6 Tin-lead alloy
7 Boarders



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye

WHY CAN'T I COMMUNICAKE WITH POPEYE?
WE IS BOTH HUMAN BEINGS!
PLOP
THE GENERATION GAP IS TURNIN' INTO A CREVICE!
I WILL TRY AGAIN!
OLIVE, YOU IS A REAL SWEET PEETOOTY!
OH, POPEYE!
PHOOEY! HE IS ALWAYS BUSY WIT' SOME NONSENSE!
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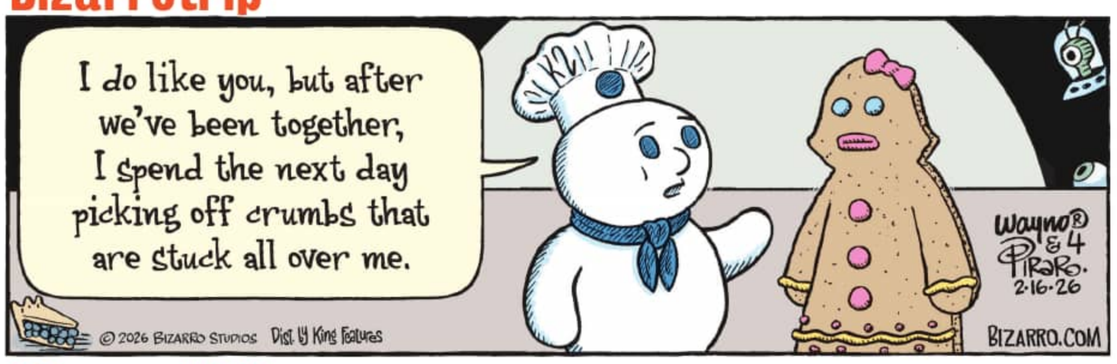
popeye.com
8-27

Bizarrotrip


I do like you, but after we've been together, I spend the next day picking off crumbs that are stuck all over me.
Wayno & Piraro 2.16.26
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BIZARRO.COM

Diamond Lil

...THEN THERE WAS A CUTE BRUNETTE I DATED FOR A WHILE, BUT NO ONE ELSE SEEMED TO LIKE HER. I NEVER FIGURED OUT WHY
WHAT WAS HER NAME?
ANN
WELL, THAT'S NOT BAD
ANN THRAX
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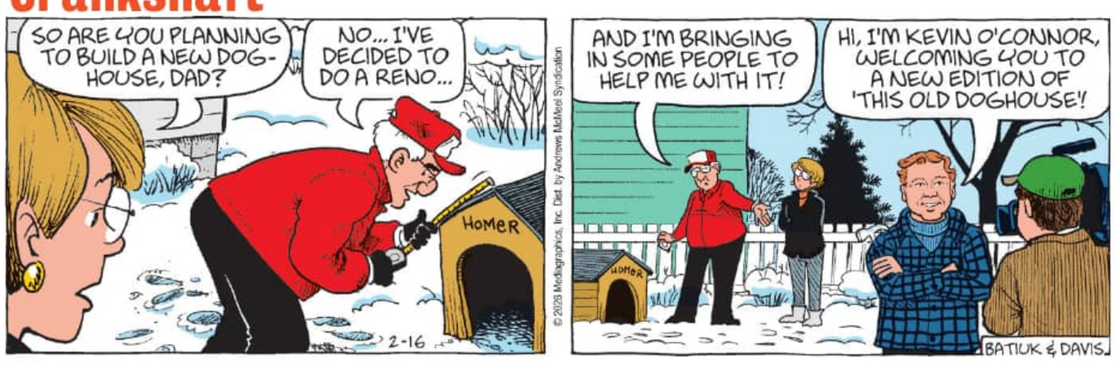
2/17
www.creators.com

Hart of the city

WHOA! SUGOI TRICK, CHRIS.
"SUGOI"? ISN'T THAT THE WEIRD SLANG THAT THE ANIME CLUB USES?
IS IT? I THOUGHT THE BASKET-BALL TEAM STARTED IT.
TRYING TO FIGURE OUT THE ORIGIN OF SLANG IN THIS SCHOOL IS AN EXERCISE IN FUTILITY.
HOW ABOUT YOUSE EXERCISE THOSE LEGS? TAKE A LAP!
SUGOI!
©GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY
HEART OF THE CITY © 2026 ANDREWS MCMEEL

Crankshaft


SO ARE YOU PLANNING TO BUILD A NEW DOG-HOUSE, DAD?
NO... I'VE DECIDED TO DO A RENO...
HOMER
2-16
AND I'M BRINGING IN SOME PEOPLE TO HELP ME WITH IT!
HI, I'M KEVIN O'CONNOR, WELCOMING YOU TO A NEW EDITION OF 'THIS OLD DOGHOUSE'!
© 2026 Mediagraphics, Inc. Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts

SHLURP SLURP SLUP
I HOPE THAT'S DECAF.
mutts.com
2-16 MUTTS © PATRICK MCDONNELL - DISTRIBUTED BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE
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WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

Emotional intelligence is your greatest strength this year. You will navigate complex social situations with grace and understanding. Your empathy allows you to heal old wounds within your family or friend group. A creative project involving storytelling or visual arts gains traction in the fall. Stay connected to your feelings; they are your compass through any upcoming storms.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20

Professional recognition is within reach after months of hard work. Don't shy away from the spotlight when your name is called. Celebrate your achievements with those who supported your journey.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20

A social invitation might feel overwhelming, but attending will bring unexpected joy. You will meet someone who shares your obscure interests. This connection could blossom into a very meaningful friendship.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21

Focus on your long-term goals. A small step taken today leads to a significant achievement in the future. Your persistence and dedication are the keys to your ultimate professional success.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23

Spiritual growth is highlighted. Spend time in meditation or quiet reflection. Connecting with your inner self brings a sense of peace and helps you navigate life's challenges with grace.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Collaboration with a friend leads to a brilliant idea. Work together to bring your vision to life. Your combined talents and energy ensure that the project is a huge success.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23

Professional responsibilities are handled with ease. Your efficiency and attention to detail are noticed by those in power. Stay focused and continue to strive for excellence in your work.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22

Seek out new experiences that expand your horizons. Travel, study, or explore a new culture. Embracing the unknown brings a sense of wonder and enriches your life in many ways.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22

Deep emotional healing is possible today. Let go of the past and embrace the present. Forgiveness is a powerful tool that allows you to move forward with a lighter heart.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22

Communication in your primary partnership is clear and honest. Express your feelings and listen to your partner's needs. Mutual understanding and respect are the foundation of your strong bond.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20

Focus on your health and well-being. A nutritious meal or a brisk walk works wonders for your energy levels. Listen to your body and give it the care it deserves.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19

Creative inspiration flows freely. Use this energy to work on a project that brings you joy. Your unique perspective and innovative ideas are a gift to the world around you.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20

Domestic harmony is easily achieved. Spend time with your loved ones and enjoy the peace of your home. A heartfelt conversation brings you closer together and strengthens your family bonds.

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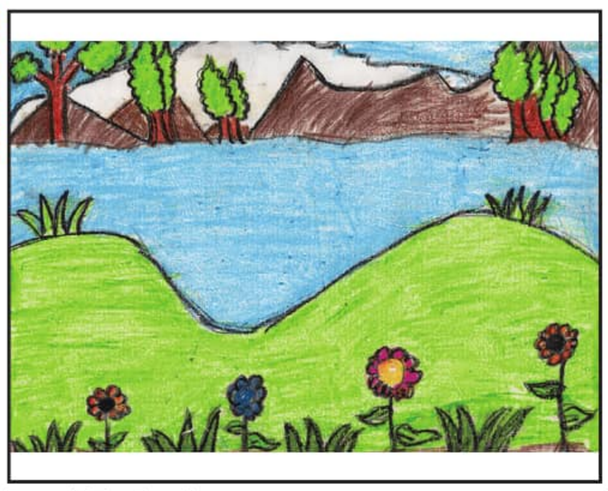
KIDZONE



Pranav Simha, Bengaluru

Sadhvi, Bengaluru

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Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M 8^(1/2)/8^(1/6) = 8^(1/3) = 2

RIDDLER Strauss is the one who killed Handel. You need to take turns assuming someone is the killer, that means everyone's second sentence is a lie. If Joplin was the killer, Grieg's lie mixed with Strauss' counteracts the other. If Grieg was the killer, Gershwin would need to be a killer too. If Gershwin was the killer, Grieg and Strauss counter each other again. But with Strauss, everything would fit

BULL'S EYE

cent, cone, CONNOTE, coon, none, noon, note, once, onto, tone

STRIKE OUT

D	E	A	F	S	E	T	K	C	A	L	E	A	T	S
E	G	T	A	L	A	R	V	A	E	I	C	N	P	O
F	O	O	Z	L	E	L	E	D	I	R	C	H	E	N
E	N	O	I	L	E	D	E	C	R	A	T	E	I	G
R	A	I	S	I	N	S	M	I	R	C	H	N	E	H
T	V	C	O	N	F	I	N	N	T	E	R	G	A	L
E	S	A	L	L	I	A	L	P	N	C	E	S	O	R
C	E	N	S	O	R	F	L	E	E	R	S	E	D	I
E	T	A	C	E	T	D	I	T	A	T	O	N	S	O
N	E	I	G	H	S	L	Y	R	A	T	E	P	O	N
I	N	P	O	N	D	E	S	T	U	N	S	Y	E	N

FAST FIVE

S	C	A	L	D
T	A	B	O	O
U	N	A	W	E
F	A	C	E	S
F	L	I	R	T

QUICK

MENSA PUZZLE

F. Starting bottom right and moving in an anticlockwise spiral, letters skip 1 space, then 2 etc. etc. returning to the letter A whenever Z is reached.

QUOTE UNCODE

An optimist is the human personification of spring.

SUDOKU

3	4	5	9	7	1	6	8	2
9	8	2	4	3	6	7	5	1
1	7	6	2	8	5	4	3	9
2	9	7	6	1	3	8	4	5
8	5	3	7	4	9	1	2	6
6	1	4	5	2	8	3	9	7
4	2	1	3	9	7	5	6	8
5	3	8	1	6	2	9	7	4
7	6	9	8	5	4	2	1	3

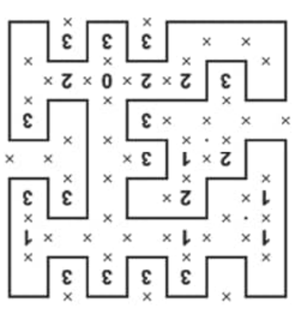
ALPHA TRIANGLE

R, Or, Rod, Redo, Doers, Solder, Lodgers.

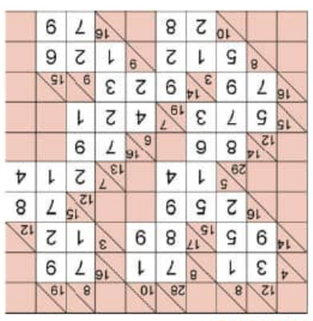
GO FIGURE

Easy
2 + 7 + 6 + 9=24
Medium
8 - 3 + 7 - 7=5
Hard
5 - 5 - 1 + 8=7

LOOP



KAKURO



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